THE ACORN

THE STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER OF DREW UNIVERSITY

MARCH 1, 2002

VOL. LXXIV
NO. 17

Drug testing in Athletics?

Drew's athletes may be subject to drug testing in the near future

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In the midst of all the drug arrests and alleged overdoses that have taken place on campus this year, the Drew University Athletic Department has taken the initial step in what could lead to drug testing of athletes next year.

This step took place at last Wednesday's Varsity D meeting. Varsity D meets bi-monthly, gathering two athletes from each varsity team to consult with the Athletic Department. Several sources said that at this meeting, Director of Athletics Dr. Connee Zotos requested that council members ask their teammates to consider three drug testing possibilities.

The first possibility is a universal drug screening of all Drew varsity athletes. This would mean that all athletes get tested at the same time on a scheduled date. Another possibility is random drug testing, meaning any athlete could be asked to give a urine sample at any given time. The third possibility is drug testing on a cause basis. Under this model, athletes will not be subjected to drug testing at all, unless they have been caught with drugs before or are suspected drug abusers.

Opinions among athletes are not very strong, as most haven't even heard anything on this issue yet. Several council members were not present at the meeting and most others did not have the chance to discuss the issue with their entire team as of press time.

Those athletes who heard about this seem to be willing to cooperate with the administration. Out of roughly 15 varsity athletes interviewed, not one strongly opposed drug testing in principle. Early support among these athletes is for model three, the one in which only students who have previously been caught with drugs or are suspected users are tested,

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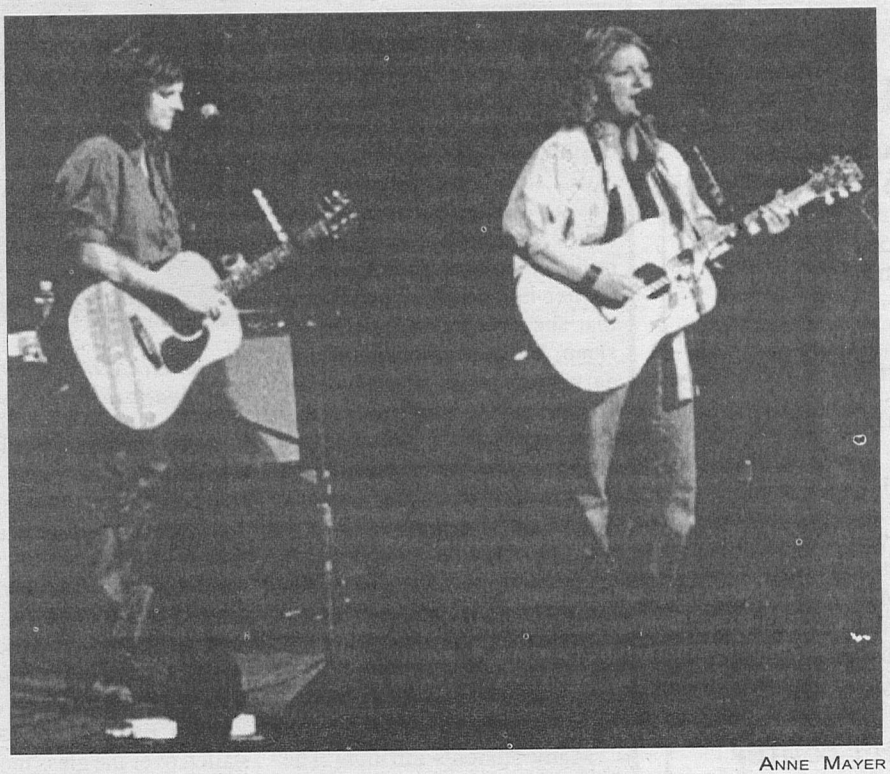
Indigo Girls a hit at Drew



ANNE MAYER

EVERY 21 HOURS ON EACH COLLEGE CAMPUS IN THE U.S. THERE IS A RAPE. This was one of several reasons provided in the event's program explaining, "Why we need to talk about vaginas." On Thursday, Feb. 28, Drew addressed this issue and similar issues in the first ever benefit performance of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*. V-Day featured a concert by the Indigo Girls and performances by Drew faculty and students, in addition to local women's rights advocates. See the story on page 7.

ENTERTAINMENT

V-Day explores, celebrates womanhood

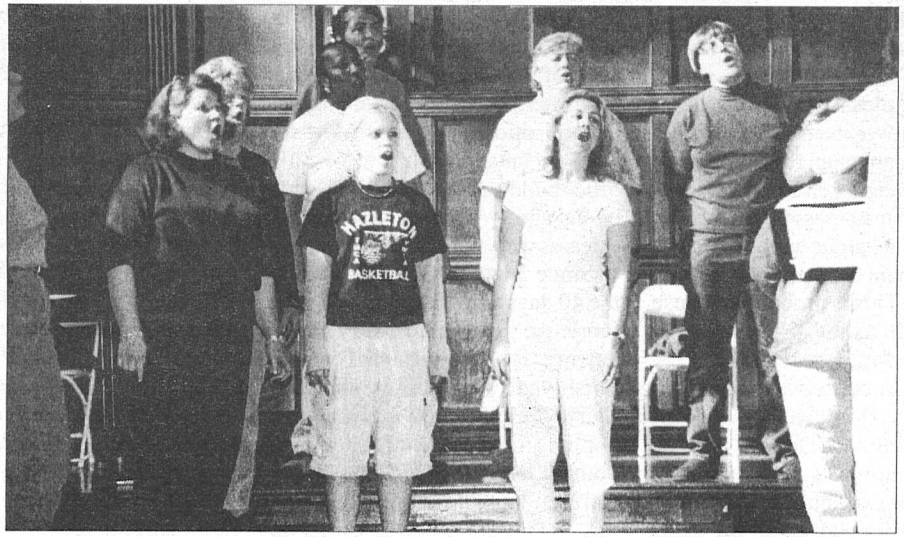
ERIN DECKER
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Drew held its first V-Day yesterday. V-Day included a concert by the Indigo Girls followed by a presentation of *The Vagina Monologues* by Eve Ensler, as well as a performance by the Plainfield-based *a cappella* group Olympia's Daughters. There was also an action group fair which offered information on women's issues.

The Vagina Monologues is a theatrical performance which uses the word "vagina" in a manner that is both humorous and poignant. The goal of *The Vagina Monologues* is to address the problem of violence against women. The proceeds from Drew's V-Day went to the Jersey Battered Women's Services and to Project S.A.F.E.

Seniors Marissa Hildebrandt and Lauren Millner were the co-chairs of the V-Day project. They had the idea to have *The Vagina Monologues* at Drew after going to a big production of the performance last February at Madison Square Garden. They were so inspired by the production that they decided to organize a V-Day at Drew.

Hildebrandt and Millner decided to try to get the Indigo Girls involved as a way to get more people to come. "If we just advertise *The Vagina Monologues*, you know the typical feminist people, who already know about the problems of women today, are going to come. But if we get the Indigo Girls, we're getting phone calls from people who've never even heard of *The Vagina Monologues*. That's fantastic," Hildebrandt said.



ANNE MAYER

The cast of* The Vagina Monologues *rehearses for their one-time only performance.

The Indigo Girls were hesitant to commit to the project at first, because they did not know their touring information, but Millner and Hildebrandt would not take no for an answer. They kept sending the Indigo Girls proposals for the project, and their efforts eventually paid off. The date of Drew's V-Day fit into their touring schedule and they agreed to have the concert here.

It was a lot easier to get Olympia's Daughters to commit to V-Day and provide musical accompaniment for *The Vagina Monologues*. They became involved in the project in October, when Millner saw them performing and liked them so much that she asked them to be part of the performance. The group was very interested in the project and the cause, so they immediately agreed. "It perfectly fit with what we try to do," Sue Fulton, one of the group's assistant directors, said. "We do community events where we can that support these kind of issues." Group director Penny Gnesin added, "If *The Vagina Monologues* hadn't been done here and we hadn't been participating in it, we would do it ourselves."

The women of Olympia's Daughters are also feminists with spirit, and it shows in some of the songs they choose. One of my favorite songs they performed during *The Vagina Monologues* was called "Big Ovaries" and was originally performed by Gaye Adegbalola, a member of Saffire Uppity Blues Women. The refrain of the song goes, "I've got big ovaries baby, big enough to lose my mind...." Another song they played had the refrain, "This body ain't nobody's body / Ain't nobody's body but my own...."

Gnesin and Fulton enjoyed the collaboration between Olympia's Daughters and the directors and cast of *The Vagina Monologues*. "It's thrilling to be involved with this incredible energy among the Drew women and men," said Gnesin.

Drew alum Magaly Roig (CLA '00) served as coordinating director of *The Vagina Monologues*. She confesses to having preconceptions about *The Vagina Monologues*. "[Before reading the script,] I thought the show was something done for shock value," Roig said. After reading the script, she changed her mind. "The quality is really what's amazing in it, the topics that it tackles, the way it tackles [them], the gracefulness, the clarity, the openness," Roig said. "I feel like every single female can relate to this, whether they're going to admit it or not."

Not all the actresses were Drew students. Some were from St. Elizabeth's College and the Madison community, but, more notably, some of them were Drew professors or administrators. Dean of Educational and Student Affairs Edye Lawler did an introduction to the show, and Associate Dean of Student Life Gerry Muir, Professor Wendy Kolmar, Professor Debra Liebowitz, Professor Rosalind Seneca, and Professor Felicidad Obregon did monologues. President Tom Kean was not involved in the performance itself, but he was instrumental in making the concert happen. Kean loaned the V-Day committee the $35,000 they needed in advance to get the Indigo Girls to agree to the concert.

Millner and Hildebrandt enjoyed planning the event. "Our energy just bounces off each other and it's fabulous," Hildebrandt said. They also acknowledge the time devoted to the project by the directors and actresses, and the people on various planning committees. "Our energy was contagious; people just got on board, and we now have a huge group of dedicated and wonderful people working with us," Millner said.

Millner and Hildebrandt feel the Drew administration and students were receptive to *The Vagina Monologues*. "I think [Drew has] provided the forum necessary to really allow us to do exactly what we want to do with this event," Millner said. "It's important to have the Drew community there to share in this enlightening, empowering event."